

Please amend the paragraph starting on line 35 of page 1 as follows:

A³ However, these membranes have a salt rejection factor greater than 90%, and the permeable water quantity is no more than $0.2 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{d}\cdot\text{kg}/\text{cm}^2$. This indicates that the permeable water quantity level is as low as $0.4 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{d}$ at a pressure level of city water ($2\text{kg}/\text{cm}^2$). When such membranes are used, the membrane area should be enlarged or pumps should be employed to raise pressure to obtain a proper permeable water quantity. Because these materials reject such a high percentage of salt, salt concentration in the concentrated water is increased at an operation with a high recovery rate, so that insoluble ingredients such as CaCO_3 and SiO_2 are deposited on the membrane surface and cause troubles such as a decrease in permeable water quantity.

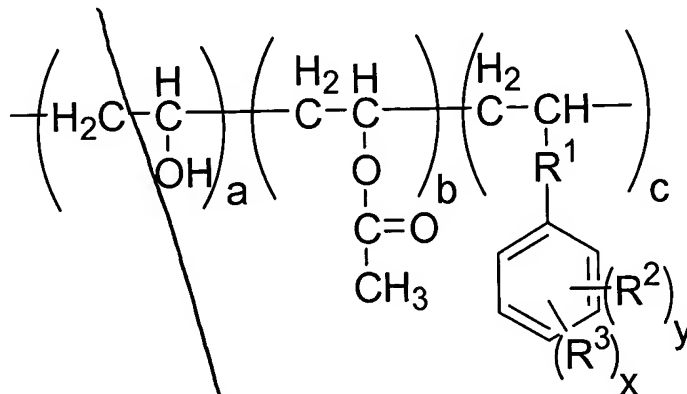
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows [A marked up copy of the claims is provided in

Appendix B]:

- A⁴ B²
1. (Once Amended) A highly permeable composite reverse osmosis membrane comprising a thin film and a microporous support to support the thin film;
wherein the thin film is formed by reacting a (a) component with a (b) component, the (a) component, as represented by Formula 1, having a main chain of polyvinyl alcohol and a side chain comprising at least one amino group selected from the group consisting of primary amines; and the (b) component comprising at least one substantially monomeric compound having at least two groups that react with the amino groups.

Formula 1



wherein $2 \leq a$, $0 \leq b$, $2 < c$, $1 \leq x \leq 5$, $0 \leq y \leq 4$, R^1 is at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, an alkylene group, and an ester group; R^2 is at least one group selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group and a halogen group; and R^3 is a primary amine.

4. (Once Amended) The highly permeable composite reverse osmosis membrane according to claim 1, wherein the (b) component is an acid chloride.
5. (Once Amended) The highly permeable composite reverse osmosis membrane according to claim 4, wherein the (b) component is at least one polyfunctional acid chloride compound selected from the group consisting of aromatic, aliphatic, and alicyclic polyfunctional acid halide compounds.
6. (Once Amended) The highly permeable composite reverse osmosis membrane according to claim 1 having a permeable flux of at least $1.0 \text{ cm}^3/\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{d}$ as assessed with a pH 6.5 aqueous solution comprising 500 mg/liter of sodium chloride at an operation pressure of 5 kg/cm^2 and at a temperature of 25°C .
7. (Once Amended) The highly permeable composite reverse osmosis membrane according to claim 1 having a salt rejection of no more than 80% as assessed with a pH 6.5